AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

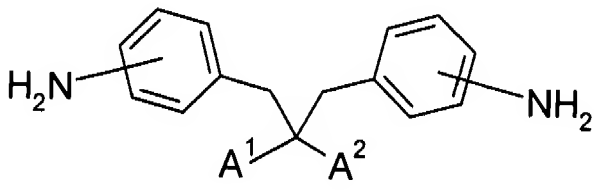
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

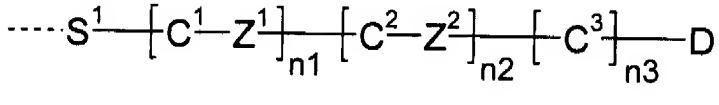
2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented): Diamine compounds represented by the general formula I:



I

wherein A^1 and A^2 each independently represent a mesogen group represented by general formula II:



II

wherein

C^1 to C^3 each independently represent an aromatic or an alicyclic group, which is unsubstituted or mono- or poly-substituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, or by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted,

mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by a group B;

D represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by a group B, or represents a organic group having a steroid skeleton;

S^1 represents a single bond or a spacer unit such a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, or a spacer unit which is straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by a group B;

Z1 , Z2 each independently of the other represent a single bond or a spacer unit which is straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or polysubstituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, having 1 to 8 carbon

atoms or a spacer unit such a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by a cyano group or by halogen atoms, having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent $-CH_2-$ groups is independently replaced by a group B;

n1 to n3 are each independently 0 or 1; and

B represents a group selected from -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, $-NR^1-$, $-NR^1-CO-$, $-CO-NR^1-$, $-NR^1-CO-O-$, $-O-CO-NR^1-$, $-NR^1-CO-NR^1-$, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -O-CO-O- and $-Si(CH_3)_2-O-Si(CH_3)_2-$ and wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

with the proviso that if n1 = n2 = n3 = 0 then D is a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 5 to 24 carbon atoms or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 5 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent $-CH_2-$ groups is independently replaced by a group B, or represents a organic group having a steroid skeleton.

4. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein C^1 to C^3 are selected from pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene, decahydronaphthalin-2,6-diyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalin-2,6-diyl, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl and 1,4-phenylene, which is unsubstituted or substituted by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine having from 1 to

12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH- and -C≡C-.

5. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein C^1 to C^3 are selected from cyclohexane-1,4-diyl and 1,4-phenylene, which is unsubstituted or substituted by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue having 1 to 12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH- and -C≡C-.

6. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein D is a hydrogen atom, a fluoro atom, a chloro atom, a cyano group, a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or polysubstituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano or fluorine, chlorine, or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent-CH_2- groups is independently replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -NR^1-CO-, -CO-NR^1-, -NR^1-CO-O-, -O-CO-NR^1-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- and -O-CO-O-, wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or represents an organic group having a steroid skeleton.

7. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein D is a hydrogen atom, a fluoro atom, a chloro atom, a cyano group, a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- and -O-CO-O-.

8. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein S^1 is selected from a single covalent bond, -CO-O-, -CO-NR^1-, -CO-, a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine and cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, and a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine and cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by a group B, wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

9. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein S^1 is selected from a single covalent bond, -CO-O-, -CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-NR^1-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO-NR^1-$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -CO-NR^1-$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -CO-NR^1-$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-, -CO-NR^1-$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$- and -CO-O$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, wherein R^1 is as defined above, r and s each represent an integer from 1 to 20 and $r + s \leq 21$.

10. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein S^1 is selected from a single covalent bond, -$(CH_2)_r$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-NH-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-O-,

-CO-NH-$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NHCO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, and -CO-$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, wherein r and s each represent an integer from 1 to 12 and $r + s \leq 15$.

11. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein S^1 include 1,2-ethylene, 1,3-propylene, 1,4-butylene, 1,5-pentylene, 1,6-hexylene, 1,7-heptylene, 1,8-octylene, 1,9-nonylene, 1,10-decylene, 1,11-undecylene, 1,12-dodecylene, 3-methyl-1,4-butylene, 2-(methylenoxy)ethylene, 3-(methylenoxy)propylene, 4-(methylenoxy)butylene, 5-(methylenoxy)pentylene, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylene, 7-(methylenoxy)heptylene, 8-(methylenoxy)octylene, 9-(methylenoxy)nonylene, 10-(methylenoxy)decylene, 11-(methylenoxy)undecylene, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylene, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethylene, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylene, 4-(carbonyloxy)butylene, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentylene, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexylene, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylene, 8-(carbonyloxy)octylene, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylene, 10-(carbonyloxy)decylene, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecylene, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylene, 2-(carbonylamino)ethylene, 3-(carbonylamino)propylene, 4-(carbonylamino)butylene, 5-(carbonylamino)pentylene, 6-(carbonylamino)hexylene, 7-(carbonylamino)heptylene, 8-(carbonylamino)octylene, 9-(carbonylamino)nonylene, 10-(carbonylamino)decylene, 11-(carbonylamino)undecylene, 12-(carbonylamino)dodecylene, 3-propyleneoxy, 3-propyleneoxycarbonyl, 2-ethylenoyloxy, 4-butyleneoxy, 4-butyleneoxycarbonyl, 3-propylenoyloxy, 5-pentyleneoxy, 5-pentyleneoxycarbonyl, 4-butylenoyloxy, 6-hexyleneoxy, 6-hexyleneoxycarbonyl, 5-pentylenoyloxy, 7-heptyleneoxy, 7-heptyleneoxycarbonyl, 6-hexylenoyloxy, 8-octyleneoxy,

8-octyleneoxycarbonyl, 7-heptylenoyloxy, 9-nonyleneoxy, 9-nonyleneoxycarbonyl, 8-octylenoyloxy, 10-decyleneoxy, 10-decyleneoxycarbonyl, 9-nonylenoyloxy, 11-undecyleneoxy, 11-undecyleneoxycarbonyl, 10-decylenoyloxy, 12-dodecyleneoxy, 12-dodecyleneoxycarbonyl, 11-undecylenoyloxy, 3-propyleneaminocarbonyl, 4-butyleneaminocarbonyl, 5-pentyleneaminocarbonyl, 6-hexyleneaminocarbonyl, 7-heptyleneaminocarbonyl, 8-octyleneaminocarbonyl, 9-nonyleneaminocarbonyl, 10-decyleneaminocarbonyl, 11-undecyleneaminocarbonyl, 12-dodecyleneaminocarbonyl, 2-ethylenecarbonylamino, 3-propylenecarbonylamino, 4-butylenecarbonylamino, 5-pentylenecarbonylamino, 6-hexylenecarbonylamino, 7-heptylenecarbonylamino, 8-octylenecarbonylamino, 9-nonylenecarbonylamino, 10-decylenecarbonylamino, 11-undecylenecarbonylamino, 2-(methylenoxy)ethanoyloxy, 3-(methylenoxy)propyloxy, 3-(methylenoxy)propyloxycarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butyloxy, 4-(methylenoxy)butyloxycarbonyl, 3-(methylenoxy)propanoyloxy, 5-(methylenoxy)pentyloxy, 5-(methylenoxy)pentyloxycarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butanoyloxy, 6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxy, 6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxycarbonyl, 5-(methylenoxy)pentanoyloxy, 7-(methylenoxy)heptyloxy, 7-(methylenoxy)heptyloxycarbonyl, 6-(methylenoxy)hexanoyloxy, 8-(methylenoxy)octyloxy, 8-(methylenoxy)octyloxycarbonyl, 7-(methylenoxy)heptanoyloxy, 9-(methylenoxy)nonyloxy, 9-(methylenoxy)nonyloxycarbonyl, 8-(methylenoxy)octanoyloxy, 10-(methylenoxy)decyloxy, 10-(methylenoxy)decyloxycarbonyl, 9-(methylenoxy)nonanoyloxy, 11-(methylenoxy)undecyloxy, 11-(methylenoxy)undecyloxycarbonyl, 10-(methylenoxy)decanoyloxy, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecyloxy, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecyloxycarbonyl, 11-(methylenoxy)undecanoyloxy, 3-(methylenoxy)propylaminocarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butylaminocarbonyl,

5-(methylenoxy)pentylaminocarbonyl, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylaminocarbonyl,

7-(methylenoxy)heptylaminocarbonyl, 8-(methylenoxy)octylaminocarbonyl,

9-(methylenoxy)nonylaminocarbonyl, 10-(methylenoxy)decylaminocarbonyl,

11-(methylenoxy)undecylaminocarbonyl, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl,

2-(methylenoxy)ethanoylamino, 3-(methylenoxy)propanoylamino,

4-(methylenoxy)butanoylamino, 5-(methylenoxy)pentanoylamino,

6-(methylenoxy)hexanoylamino, 7-(methylenoxy)heptanoylamino,

8-(methylenoxy)octanoylamino, 9-(methylenoxy)nonanoylamino,

10-(methylenoxy)decanoylamino, 11-(methylenoxy)undecanoylamino, 12-

(methylenoxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethanoyloxy, 3-(carbonyloxy)propyloxy,

3-(carbonyloxy)propyloxycarbonyl, 4-(carbonyloxy)butyloxy, 4-(carbonyloxy)butyloxycarbonyl,

3-(carbonyloxy)propanoyloxy, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentyloxy, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentyloxycarbonyl,

4-(carbonyloxy)butanoyloxy, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexyloxy, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexyloxycarbonyl,

5-(carbonyloxy)pentanoyloxy, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptyloxy, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptyloxycarbonyl,

6-(carbonyloxy)hexanoyloxy, 8-(carbonyloxy)octyloxy, 8-(carbonyloxy)octyloxycarbonyl,

7-(carbonyloxy)heptanoyloxy, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonyloxy, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonyloxycarbonyl,

8-(carbonyloxy)octanoyloxy, 10-(carbonyloxy)decyloxy, 10-(carbonyloxy)decyloxycarbonyl,

9-(carbonyloxy)nonanoyloxy, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecyloxy,

11-(carbonyloxy)undecyloxycarbonyl, 10-(carbonyloxy)decanoyloxy,

12-(carbonyloxy)dodecyloxy, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecyloxycarbonyl,

11-(carbonyloxy)undecanoyloxy, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylaminocarbonyl,

4-(carbonyloxy)butylaminocarbonyl, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentylaminocarbonyl,

6-(carbonyloxy)hexylaminocarbonyl, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylaminocarbonyl,

8-(carbonyloxy)octylaminocarbonyl, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylaminocarbonyl, 10-(carbonyloxy)decylaminocarbonyl, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecylaminocarbonyl, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethanoylamino, 3-(carbonyloxy)propanoylamino, 4-(carbonyloxy)butanoylamino, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentanoylamino, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexanoylamino, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptanoylamino, 8-(carbonyloxy)octanoylamino, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonanoylamino, 10-(carbonyloxy)decanoylamino, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecanoylamino, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl 6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyloxy)hexylene, 6-(3-propyleneoxy)hexylene, 6-(3-propyleneoxy)hexyloxy, 6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyloxy)hexyloxy, 6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyl)hexyl, 6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyl)hexyloxy, 2-(1-methyleneoxy)ethyloxycarbonyloxy, 3-(1-methyleneoxy)propyloxycarbonyloxy, 6-(1-methyleneoxy)hexyloxycarbonyloxy, 2-(1-methyleneoxycarbonyl)ethylene, 3-(1-methyleneoxycarbonyl)propyloxycarbonyloxy, 6-(1-methyleneoxycarbonyl)hexyloxycarbonyloxy, 6-(3-propyleneoxycarbonyloxy)hexylene, 6-(3-propyleneoxycarbonyl)hexylene, 2-(1-methyleneaminocarbonyl)ethylene, 3-(1-methyleneaminocarbonyl)propylene, 6-(1-methyleneaminocarbonyl)hexylene, and 6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyloxy)hexylene, 6-(3-propyleneaminocarbonyl)hexylene.

12. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are selected from a single covalent bond, a spacer unit such as a straight-chain or branched alkylene group, which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluoro atoms, having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and a spacer unit which is a straight-chain or branched alkylene group, which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluoro atoms, having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein

one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by a group selected from -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -NR^1-CO-, -CO-NR^1-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, and wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

13. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are selected from a single covalent bond, a spacer unit such a straight-chain or branched alkylene group having 1 to 4 carbon atom, and a spacer unit which is straight-chain or branched alkylene group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein one or two non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by a group selected from -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-.

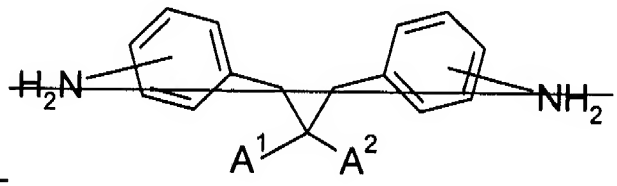
14. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein n2 = 1 and n3 = 1.

15. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein n1 = 0 with n2 = 1 and n3 = 1.

16. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein D is an organic group having a steroid skeleton if n1+n2+n3 = 0.

17. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, wherein the steroid skeleton is a 3-cholesteryl or a 3-cholestanyl residue.

18. (currently amended): Diamine compounds according to claim 3, ~~represented by the general formula I:~~



I

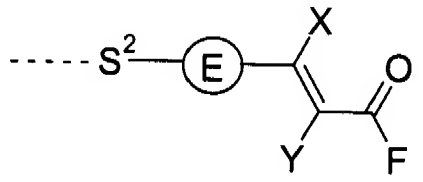
wherein A^1 and A^2 each independently represent a photoreactive group which can be photoisomerized on exposure to UV or laser light.

19. (original): Diamine compounds according to claim 18, wherein the photoreactive groups are able to undergo photocyclization, in particular [2+2]-photocyclization.

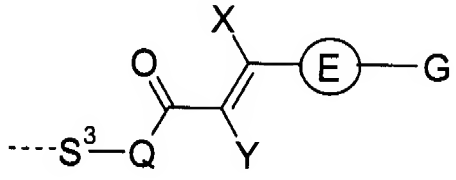
20. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 18, wherein the photoreactive groups are sensitive to UV or laser light, in particular linearly polarized UV light.

21. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 18, wherein the photoreactive groups include cinnamates, benzylidenephthalimidines, benzylideneacetophones, diphenylacetylenes stilbazoles, uracyl, quinolinone, maleinimides, or cinnamylidene acetic acid derivatives.

22. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 18, wherein the photoreactive groups are represented by general formulae IIIa and IIIb:



IIIa



IIIb

wherein

E represents pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2,5-thiophenylene, 2,5-furanylene, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene, or phenylene, which is unsubstituted or

mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently be replaced by a group B as defined hereinabove;

F represents –OR^2, -NR^3R^4 or an oxygen atom, which defines together with the ring E a coumarin unit, wherein R^2, R^3 and R^4 are selected from hydrogen, a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by a group J, or R^3 and R^4 together form a C_{5-8} alicyclic ring; wherein

J represents a group selected from -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -NR^1-, -NR^1-CO-, -CO-NR^1-, -NR^1-CO-O-, -O-CO-NR^1-, -NR^1-CO-NR^1-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -O-CO-O- and -$Si(CH_3)_2$-O-$Si(CH_3)_2$-, an aromatic or an alicyclic group, and wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

G represents a hydrogen atom, or a halogen atom, a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by cyano, fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by cyano, fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more $-CH_2-$ groups is independently replaced by a group J, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other;

S^2, S^3 each independently of the other represent a single bond, a spacer unit which is a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or polysubstituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 40 carbon atoms, or a spacer unit which is a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 40 carbon atoms, wherein one or more $-CH_2-$ groups is independently replaced by a group J, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other;

Q represents an oxygen atom or $-NR^1-$ wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

X, Y each independently of the other represents hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, cyano, alkyl optionally substituted by fluorine having 1 to 12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent alkyl $-CH_2-$ groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO- and/or -CH=CH-.

23. (original): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein E is selected from pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2,5-thiophenylene, 2,5-furanylene, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene and phenylene, which is unsubstituted or substituted by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine having 1 to 12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent alkyl $-CH_2-$ groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH- and -C≡C-.

24. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein E is selected from 2,5-furanylene, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene and phenylene, which is unsubstituted or substituted by a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue having 1 to 12 carbon atoms in which optionally one or more non-adjacent alkyl $-CH_2-$ groups are replaced by -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CH=CH- and -C≡C-.

25. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein F is selected from $-OR^2$ and $-NR^3R^4$, wherein R^2 and R^3 represent a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, cyano, having 1 to 18 carbons atoms or a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly- substituted by fluorine, chlorine, cyano, having 1 to 18 carbons atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent alkyl $-CH_2-$ groups is independently replaced by -O- or -CH=CH-, wherein R^4 is selected from a hydrogen atom, a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, cyano, having 1 to 18 carbons atoms or a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly- substituted by fluorine, chlorine, cyano, having 1 to 18 carbons atoms, wherein

one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by -O- or -CH=CH-, or R^4 and R^5 together to form a C_{5-8} alicyclic ring.

26. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein F is selected from the group comprising –OR^2 or –NHR^3, wherein R^2 and R^3 represent a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted by fluorine atoms, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms or a cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue which is unsubstituted, mono- or poly- substituted by fluorine atoms, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by -O-.

27. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein G is a hydrogen atom, or fluorine atom, or chlorine atom, a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano, fluorine or chlorine or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which is unsubstituted, mono-substituted by cyano, fluorine or chlorine or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more -CH_2- groups is independently replaced -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -NR^1-, -NR^1-CO-, -CO-NR^1-, -NR^1-CO-O-, -O-CO-NR^1-, -NR^1-CO-NR^1-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C- and -O-CO-O-, an aromatic or an alicyclic group, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other, and wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

28. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein G is a hydrogen atom, a straight-chain or branched alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, wherein one or more non-

adjacent -CH_2- groups is independently replaced -O-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -NR^1-, -NR^1-CO-, -CO-NR^1-, and -O-CO-O-, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other, and wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

29. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S^2 is selected from a single covalent bond, -CO-O-, -CO-NR^1-, -CO-, a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, and a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by a group J, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other, wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

30. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S^2 is selected from a single covalent bond, -CO-O-, -CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-NR^1-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO-NR^1-$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO-NR^1-$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -CO-NR^1-$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-, -CO-NR^1-$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NR^1-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$- and

-CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, wherein R^1 is as defined above, r and s each represent an integer from 1 to 20, and $r + s \leq 21$.

31. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S^2 is selected from a single covalent bond, -$(CH_2)_r$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-CO-, -$(CH_2)_r$-CO-NH-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_r$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-, -$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, -CO-O-$(CH_2)_r$-O-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, and -CO-$(CH_2)_r$-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_s$-O-, wherein r and s each represent an integer from 1 to 12 and $r + s \leq 15$.

32. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S^2 include 1,2-ethylen, 1,3-propylen, 1,4-butylen, 1,5-pentylen, 1,6-hexylen, 1,7-heptylen, 1,8-octylen, 1,9-nonylen, 1,10-decylen, 1,11-undecylen, 1,12-dodecylen, 3-methyl-1,4-butylen, 2-(methylenoxy)ethylen, 3-(methylenoxy)propylen, 4-(methylenoxy)butylen, 5-(methylenoxy)pentylen, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylen, 7-(methylenoxy)heptylen, 8-(methylenoxy)octylen, 9-(methylenoxy)nonylen, 10-(methylenoxy)decylen, 11-(methylenoxy)undecylen, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylen, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethylen, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylen, 4-(carbonyloxy)butylen, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentylen, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexylen, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylen, 8-(carbonyloxy)octylen, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylen, 10-(carbonyloxy)decylen, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecylen, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylen, 2-(carbonylamino)ethylen, 3-(carbonylamino)propylen, 4-(carbonylamino)butylen, 5-(carbonylamino)pentylen, 6-(carbonylamino)hexylen, 7-(carbonylamino)heptylen, 8-(carbonylamino)octylen, 9-(carbonylamino)nonylen,

10-(carbonylamino)decylen, 11-(carbonylamino)undecylen, 12-(carbonylamino)dodecylen, 3-propylenoxy, 3-propylenoxycarbonyl, 2-ethylenoyloxy, 4-butylenoxy, 4-butylenoxycarbonyl, 3-propylenoyloxy, 5-pentylenoxy, 5-pentylenoxycarbonyl, 4-butylenoyloxy, 6-hexylenoxy, 6-hexylenoxycarbonyl, 5-pentylenoyloxy, 7-heptylenoxy, 7-heptylenoxycarbonyl, 6-hexylenoyloxy, 8-octylenoxy, 8-octylenoxycarbonyl, 7-heptylenoyloxy, 9-nonylenoxy, 9-nonylenoxycarbonyl, 8-octylenoyloxy, 10-decylenoxy, 10-decylenoxycarbonyl, 9-nonylenoyloxy, 11-undecylenoxy, 11-undecylenoxycarbonyl, 10-decylenoyloxy, 12-dodecylenoxy, 12-dodecylenoxycarbonyl, 11-undecylenoyloxy, 3-propylenaminocarbonyl, 4-butylenaminocarbonyl, 5-pentylenaminocarbonyl, 6-hexylenaminocarbonyl, 7-heptylenaminocarbonyl, 8-octylenaminocarbonyl, 9-nonylenaminocarbonyl, 10-decylenaminocarbonyl, 11-undecylenaminocarbonyl, 12-dodecylenaminocarbonyl, 2-ethylenoylamino, 3-propylenoylamino, 4-butylenoylamino, 5-pentylenoylamino, 6-hexylenoylamino, 7-heptylenoylamino, 8-octylenoylamino, 9-nonylenoylamino, 10-decylenoylamino, 11-undecylenoylamino, 2-(methylenoxy)ethanoyloxy , 3-(methylenoxy)propyloxy, 3-(methylenoxy)propyloxycarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butyloxy, 4-(methylenoxy)butyloxycarbonyl, 3-(methylenoxy)propanoyloxy, 5-(methylenoxy)pentyloxy, 5-(methylenoxy)pentyloxycarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butanoyloxy, 6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxy, 6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxycarbonyl, 5-(methylenoxy)pentanoyloxy, 7-(methylenoxy)heptyloxy, 7-(methylenoxy)heptyloxycarbonyl, 6-(methylenoxy)hexanoyloxy, 8-(methylenoxy)octyloxy, 8-(methylenoxy)octyloxycarbonyl, 7-(methylenoxy)heptanoyloxy, 9-(methylenoxy)nonyloxy, 9-(methylenoxy)nonyloxycarbonyl, 8-(methylenoxy)octanoyloxy, 10-(methylenoxy)decyloxy, 10-(methylenoxy)decyloxycarbonyl, 9-(methylenoxy)nonanoyloxy, 11-(methylenoxy)undecyloxy, 11-(methylenoxy)undecyloxycarbonyl,

10-(methylenoxy)decanoyloxy, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecyloxy,

12-(methylenoxy)dodecyloxycarbonyl, 11-(methylenoxy)undecanoyloxy,

3-(methylenoxy)propylaminocarbonyl, 4-(methylenoxy)butylaminocarbonyl,

5-(methylenoxy)pentylaminocarbonyl, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylaminocarbonyl,

7-(methylenoxy)heptylaminocarbonyl, 8-(methylenoxy)octylaminocarbonyl,

9-(methylenoxy)nonylaminocarbonyl, 10-(methylenoxy)decylaminocarbonyl,

11-(methylenoxy)undecylaminocarbonyl, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl,

2-(methylenoxy)ethanoylamino, 3-(methylenoxy)propanoylamino,

4-(methylenoxy)butanoylamino, 5-(methylenoxy)pentanoylamino,

6-(methylenoxy)hexanoylamino, 7-(methylenoxy)heptanoylamino,

8-(methylenoxy)octanoylamino, 9-(methylenoxy)nonanoylamino,

10-(methylenoxy)decanoylamino, 11-(methylenoxy)undecanoylamino, 12-

(methylenoxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethanoyloxy, 3-(carbonyloxy)propyloxy,

3-(carbonyloxy)propyloxycarbonyl, 4-(carbonyloxy)butyloxy, 4-(carbonyloxy)butyloxycarbonyl,

3-(carbonyloxy)propanoyloxy, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentyloxy, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentyloxycarbonyl,

4-(carbonyloxy)butanoyloxy, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexyloxy, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexyloxycarbonyl,

5-(carbonyloxy)pentanoyloxy, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptyloxy, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptyloxycarbonyl,

6-(carbonyloxy)hexanoyloxy, 8-(carbonyloxy)octyloxy, 8-(carbonyloxy)octyloxycarbonyl,

7-(carbonyloxy)heptanoyloxy, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonyloxy, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonyloxycarbonyl,

8-(carbonyloxy)octanoyloxy, 10-(carbonyloxy)decyloxy, 10-(carbonyloxy)decyloxycarbonyl,

9-(carbonyloxy)nonanoyloxy, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecyloxy,

11-(carbonyloxy)undecyloxycarbonyl, 10-(carbonyloxy)decanoyloxy,

12-(carbonyloxy)dodecyloxy, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecyloxycarbonyl,

11-(carbonyloxy)undecanoyloxy, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylaminocarbonyl,

4-(carbonyloxy)butylaminocarbonyl, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentylaminocarbonyl,

6-(carbonyloxy)hexylaminocarbonyl, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylaminocarbonyl,

8-(carbonyloxy)octylaminocarbonyl, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylaminocarbonyl,

10-(carbonyloxy)decylaminocarbonyl, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecylaminocarbonyl,

12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethanoylamino,

3-(carbonyloxy)propanoylamino, 4-(carbonyloxy)butanoylamino,

5-(carbonyloxy)pentanoylamino, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexanoylamino,

7-(carbonyloxy)heptanoylamino, 8-(carbonyloxy)octanoylamino,

9-(carbonyloxy)nonanoylamino, 10-(carbonyloxy)decanoylamino,

11-(carbonyloxy)undecanoylamino, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylaminocarbonyl,

6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenoxy)hexylen,

6-(3-propylenoxy)hexyloxy, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexyloxy,

6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexyl, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexyloxy,

2-(methylenoxy)ethyloxycarbonyloxy, 3-(methylenoxy)propyloxycarbonyloxy,

6-(methylenoxy)hexyloxycarbonyloxy, 2-(methylenoxycarbonyl)ethylen,

3-(methylenoxycarbonyl)propyloxycarbonyloxy,

6-(methylenoxycarbonyl)hexyloxycarbonyloxy, 6-(3-propylenoxycarbonyloxy)hexylen,

6-(3-propylenoxycarbonyl)hexylen, 2-(methylenaminocarbonyl)ethylen,

3-(methylenaminocarbonyl)propylen, 6-(methylenaminocarbonyl)hexylen,

6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexylen,

4-{[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy}phenylen, 4-[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]cyclohexylen,

3-methoxy-4-{[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy}phenylen,

4-{[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy}phenylcarbonyloxy,

4-[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]cyclohexanoyloxy,

3-ethoxy-4-{[8-(methylenoxy)octyl]oxy}phenylcarbonyloxy,

4-[3-(carbonyloxy)propyl]phenylen, 4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylen,

4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]cyclohexylen, 3-methoxy-4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylen,

4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylcarbonyloxy, 4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]cyclohexanoyloxy,

3-ethoxy-4-[8-(carbonyloxy)octyl]phenylcarbonyloxy,

2-{4-4-{2-(methylenoxy)ethyl}cyclohexyl]phenyl}ethoxy, 1-[4'-{[4-(methylenoxy)butyl]oxy}-1,1'biphenyl-4-yl]carbonyloxy, 1-{4-[4-{2-(methylenoxy)ethoxy}phenyl}methyloxy,

2-{4-[4-(2-carbonyloxyethyl) cyclohexyl]phenyl}ethoxy, 2-[4'-(4-carbonyloxybutyl)-1,1'biphenylen-4-yl]ethoxy, 6-{4-[4-(2-carbonyloxyethyl)phenyl}hexyloxy, and 5-{[4'-[4-(methylenoxy)butoxy)]-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl]oxy}pentanoyloxy.

33. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S^3 is selected from -CO-O-, -CO-NR^1-, -CO-, a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, and a straight-chain or branched alkylene group which is unsubstituted, mono or poly-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, or cyano, having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, wherein one or more -CH_2- groups is independently replaced by a group J, with the proviso that oxygen atoms are not directly attached to each other, wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

34. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S^3 is selected from a single covalent bond, -$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO-$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO -O -$(CH_2)_r$-, -CO -NR^1

$-(CH_2)_r-$, $-(CH_2)_r-O-(CH_2)_s-$, $-(CH_2)_r-CO-O-(CH_2)_s-$, $-(CH_2)_r-O-CO-(CH_2)_s-$, $-(CH_2)_r-NR^1-CO-(CH_2)_s-$, $-(CH_2)_r-NR^1-CO-O-(CH_2)_s-$, and $-CO-O-(CH_2)_r-O-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein R^1 is as defined herein above; r and s each represent an integer from 1 to 20; and $r + s \leq 21$.

35. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein S^3 include 1,2-ethylen, 1,3-propylen, 1,4-butylen, 1,5-pentylen, 1,6-hexylen, 1,7-heptylen, 1,8-octylen, 1,9-nonylen, 1,10-decylen, 1,11-undecylen, 1,12-dodecylen, 3-methyl-1,4-butylen, 2-(methylenoxy)ethylen, 3-(methylenoxy)propylen, 4-(methylenoxy)butylen, 5-(methylenoxy)pentylen, 6-(methylenoxy)hexylen, 7-(methylenoxy)heptylen, 8-(methylenoxy)octylen, 9-(methylenoxy)nonylen, 10-(methylenoxy)decylen, 11-(methylenoxy)undecylen, 12-(methylenoxy)dodecylen, 2-(carbonyloxy)ethylen, 3-(carbonyloxy)propylen, 4-(carbonyloxy)butylen, 5-(carbonyloxy)pentylen, 6-(carbonyloxy)hexylen, 7-(carbonyloxy)heptylen, 8-(carbonyloxy)octylen, 9-(carbonyloxy)nonylen, 10-(carbonyloxy)decylen, 11-(carbonyloxy)undecylen, 12-(carbonyloxy)dodecylen, 2-(carbonylamino)ethylen, 3-(carbonylamino)propylen, 4-(carbonylamino)butylen, 5-(carbonylamino)pentylen, 6-(carbonylamino)hexylen, 7-(carbonylamino)heptylen, 8-(carbonylamino)octylen, 9-(carbonylamino)nonylen, 10-(carbonylamino)decylen, 11-(carbonylamino)undecylen, 12-(carbonylamino)dodecylen, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenoxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexyl, 2-(methylenoxycarbonyl)ethylen, 6-(3-propylenoxycarbonyloxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenoxycarbonyl)hexylen, 2-(methylenaminocarbonyl)ethylen, 3-(methylenaminocarbonyl)propylen,

6-(methylenaminocarbonyl)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyloxy)hexylen, 6-(3-propylenaminocarbonyl)hexylen , 4-{[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy}phenylen, 4-[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]cyclohexylen, 3-methoxy-4-{[6-(methylenoxy)hexyl]oxy}phenylen, 4-[3-(carbonyloxy)propyl]phenylen, 4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylen, and 4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]cyclohexylen, 3-methoxy- 4-[6-(carbonyloxy)hexyl]phenylen.

36. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein Q is an oxygen atom or -NH-.

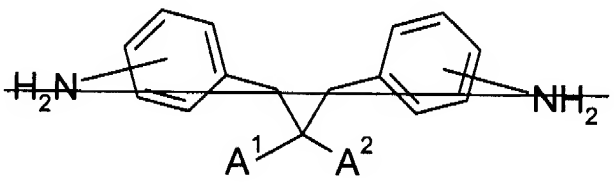
37. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein Q is an oxygen atom.

38. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22, wherein X and Y represent hydrogen.

39. (previously presented): Diamine compounds according to claim 22 , wherein the photoactive groups are groups of formula IIIa.

40. (previously presented): Method of using a diamine compound according to claim 22, comprising providing the diamine compound as precursor for the production of liquid crystal alignment layers.

41. (currently amended): A liquid crystal orientation material obtained by the reaction of a diamine compound according to claim 3 ~~of general formula I:~~



I

~~wherein~~

~~A^1 represents an organic group of 1 to 40 carbon atoms;~~

~~A^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic group of 1 to 40 carbon atoms~~.

42. (canceled).

43. (canceled).

44. (canceled).

45. (canceled).

46. (canceled).

47. (canceled).

48. (canceled).

49. (canceled).

50. (canceled).

51. (canceled).

52. (canceled).

53. (canceled).

54. (canceled).

55. (canceled).

56. (canceled).

57. (canceled).

58. (canceled).

59. (canceled).

60. (canceled).

61. (canceled).

62. (canceled).

63. (canceled).

64. (canceled).

65. (canceled).

66. (canceled).

67. (canceled).